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Approved For Release 2004/04/19 : CIA-RDP84-00022R000200150054-8

ONE Board - personnel

6 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Prospective Members for Board of National Estimates

1. The Board of National Estimates now consists of nine members.

2. By mid-summer we will have lost two members; Raymond J. Sontag and Admiral Nierl. We will probably lose a third.

3. The burden of work which the Board now carries and presumably will continue to carry for the foreseeable future indicates the wisdom of striving to enlarge the Board from nine to eleven and possibly to twelve members. The larger number would permit splitting the Board into panels when it is imperative to act on two or more crash jobs simultaneously. In any event, we must at a minimum replace the two or three departing members.

4. As you are aware, appointments to the Board have in the past been appointments by the Director of Central Intelligence.

5. I recommend to your consideration the following as possible Board members, some of whom might be recruited as replacements and/or additional members; it goes without saying that we are unlikely to be able to get all of them:

a. Lt. Gen. Ighal Edwards, USAF, who retired on 28 February, and who is slated to serve as the NSC's officer in charge of the Special Evaluation Sub-committee until 15 May or, at the latest, the end of May. He may be available for service on the Board after that time.

b. Vice Admiral Harry S. Hill, USN (Ret.) Admiral Hill has been recalled to active duty to serve as Governor of the Naval Home at Philadelphia (an indefinite assignment), but might be persuaded to join the Board. Admiral Hill, as you doubtless recall, preceded General Hull as Commandant of the

HS/HC-

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National War College, and later finished his naval career as Commandant at Annapolis. He is, in my opinion, admirably fitted for service on the Board, besides being a warm personal friend.

c. Russell Dorr. Now serving as one of Ambassador Draper's deputies. You may remember Dorr from OSS days, when he put in an outstanding job as an intelligence officer. He has subsequently held posts as UN Minister to the Reparations Commission in Brussels, senior PCA officer in Turkey, and recently the Draper job noted above. Mr. Becker thinks there may be some chance of getting him for the Board. With General Smith's approval, we have already made one unsuccessful attempt.

d. William Reitzel. Mr. Reitzel has previously served in the Global Survey Group in the former Office of Research and Estimates, demonstrating marked ability and seasoned judgment. He left the Agency to take an executive position, under Dr. Pasvolnsky, at the Brookings Institute, and is now serving also as part-time professor at Liverford.

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f. Professor John Hasland. Professor of political science at Swarthmore; presently on leave with the Carnegie Foundation's international relations institute at Princeton. Personally known to General Bull and well-considered.

g. Lt. Gen. Hubert Harmon, USAF (Ret.) For the past four years Air Force representative at the UN. Now retired and retained in the same position. Recommended by Admiral Rieri.

6. Could I talk to you about these names and any others that suggest themselves to you sometime in the near future? There is every reason to believe that if Reitzel, Strayer, and/or Hasland

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joined the Board, none of them would choose to serve more than two years at the most and would probably agree to serve only a single year. I note this to assure you that in appointing any or all of them we will not be committing Board slots on an indefinite basis.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
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